

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for conducting the telephonic interview on June 21, 2006.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to informalities in claim 7. With this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 7 to correct the informalities. Applicants submit that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 7.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,068,305 to Meyers ("Meyers"). Claim 6 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,167,104 in view of Meyers.

Claim 6 requires, "the lock further includes a biaser positioned to urge the first and second interactive members into contact." In both rejections, the Official Action fails to identify where the claimed "biaser" is believed to be taught or present. In the telephonic interview of June 21, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the art was being read such that a human interacting with the door was believed to read on the claimed "biaser."

The Applicant respectfully notes that the claimed "biaser" is an element of a lock of a vending machine. The Applicant respectfully submits that a reasonable interpretation of an element of a vending machine lock, would not include a human. Furthermore, when considered in light of the specification, the claimed biaser is clearly a non-human component (e.x. spring or biaser 146 shown in Fig. 10 of the present application). While the Examiner is tasked to apply claim terms with their broadest reasonable interpretation, the Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed reading of a human as part of the recited vending machine lock is not a reasonable interpretation. To further clarify the interpretation, the Applicant expressly limits the interpretation of the term "biaser" in claim 6 to non-human components. Removal of the rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

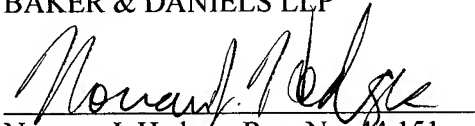
Applicants submit that all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time to effect a timely response. Please charge any additional fees or credits to the account of Baker & Daniels Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & DANIELS LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Norman J. Hedges", is written over a horizontal line.

Norman J. Hedges, Reg. No. 44,151

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